

WO-245
The Messenger Building
Snow Hill
public

1893-1894

Occupying an important West Market Street lot directly across the street from the Worcester County Courthouse is this three-story, four-bay brick building that currently holds the offices for the Maryland Department of Assessments. The Victorian brick facade stands in contrast to nearby buildings with its alternating yellow and red brick segmental arches and corbelled brick cornice. The first floor commercial front retains a bracketed eave and large glass display windows, but the fanciful sawn decoration that originally enriched the entrance bays has been removed.

For many years this expressive brick commercial building was known as the Messenger building since it housed the offices of the Democratic Messenger when the paper was written and printed in Snow Hill. Entries in the paper shortly after the August 1893 fire indicate this was one of the first buildings built in the so-called "burnt district." On September 9, 1893, the paper related that,

Work on the building to be occupied as the post office, Dr. Hall's Drug Store, and the Messenger office has been commenced, and we hope before cold weather to get into our part of it. It is on the same sight (sic) as was occupied by us before the fire and will be an imposing structure.

The construction of the Messenger building, supervised by contractor Edward Dixon, progressed through the fall months of 1893 and by late December plasters were inside spreading the initial layer. Obviously interested in the progress the Democratic Messenger announced on December 30 that,

The three-story building in front of the Court House being built by O. D. Collins, Esq. to be known as the Messenger Building has received the first coat of plaster, and the second story will be completed for us next week, so that after the Holidays, our friends will find us over the postoffice, as of old, and in the only three-story building in town. The Messenger Building is an imposing structure and reflects much credit on the owner who planned it without the aid of an architect. Everyone of its tenants should feel as the editors of this paper will, proud of their quarters in such a building.

In past times the building has served also as the meeting lodge for the Snow Hill chapter of Redmen.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: THE MESSENGER BUILDING

MHT Inventory Number: WD- 245

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1871-1970 INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

A. COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND
FRATERNAL MEETING ROOM.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-245

Magi No. 2402455611

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Redmen's Lodge * THE MESSENGER BUILDING

and/or common Maryland Department of Assessments

2. Location

street & number NE corner of West Market and Pearl streets not for publicationcity, town Snow Hill vicinity of congressional district Firststate Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Worcester County Commissioners

street & number Worcester County Courthouse telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title date federal state county local pository for survey records city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-245

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Redmen's Lodge building, now housing the Maryland Department of Assessments, stands on the northeast corner of West Market and Pearl streets in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The three-story, four-bay rectangular brick building faces southeast.

Built around 1894, the five-course common bond brick building is topped by parapet walls that hide a flat roof. The southeast (main) elevation is a symmetrical four-bay facade with separate entrances that once permitted access to individual shops. Large glass display windows with paneled knee walls flank the front doors, and a bracketed wood cornice stretches above the display windows. The front of the building was formerly fitted with much more elaborate Victorian sawnwork that has been removed. The second and third floors are lighted by rows of four two-over-two sash windows, the the window arches are highlighted by alternating dark and light colored brick. Continuing the alternating brick pattern is the decorative corbelled brick cornice.

The southwest facade borders Pearl Street and a side four-panel door topped by a two-pane transom. A second recessed door opens into the present tax assessors office. Rows of four two-over-two sash windows light the second and third floors.

The other two sides of the building are largely covered by adjacent commercial structures.

The interiors have been thoroughly reworked as modern offices for the Maryland Department of Assessments. The interior was gutted of most late nineteenth-century features.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-245

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1894-95 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Occupying an important West Market Street lot directly across the street from the Worcester County Courthouse is this three-story, four-bay brick building that currently holds the offices for the Maryland Department of Assessments. The Victorian brick facade stands in contrast to nearby buildings with its contrasting yellow and red brick segmental arches and corbelled brick cornice. The first floor commercial front retains a bracketed eave and large glass display windows, but the fanciful sawn decoration that originally marked the entrance bays has been removed.

Known to have been erected between the 1893 fire and the publication of the 1895 Sanborn Insurance map, the building once served as the former offices of the Democratic Messenger and the meeting place for the Snow Hill chapter of Redmen.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-245

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian
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organization	Worcester County	date	6/25/88
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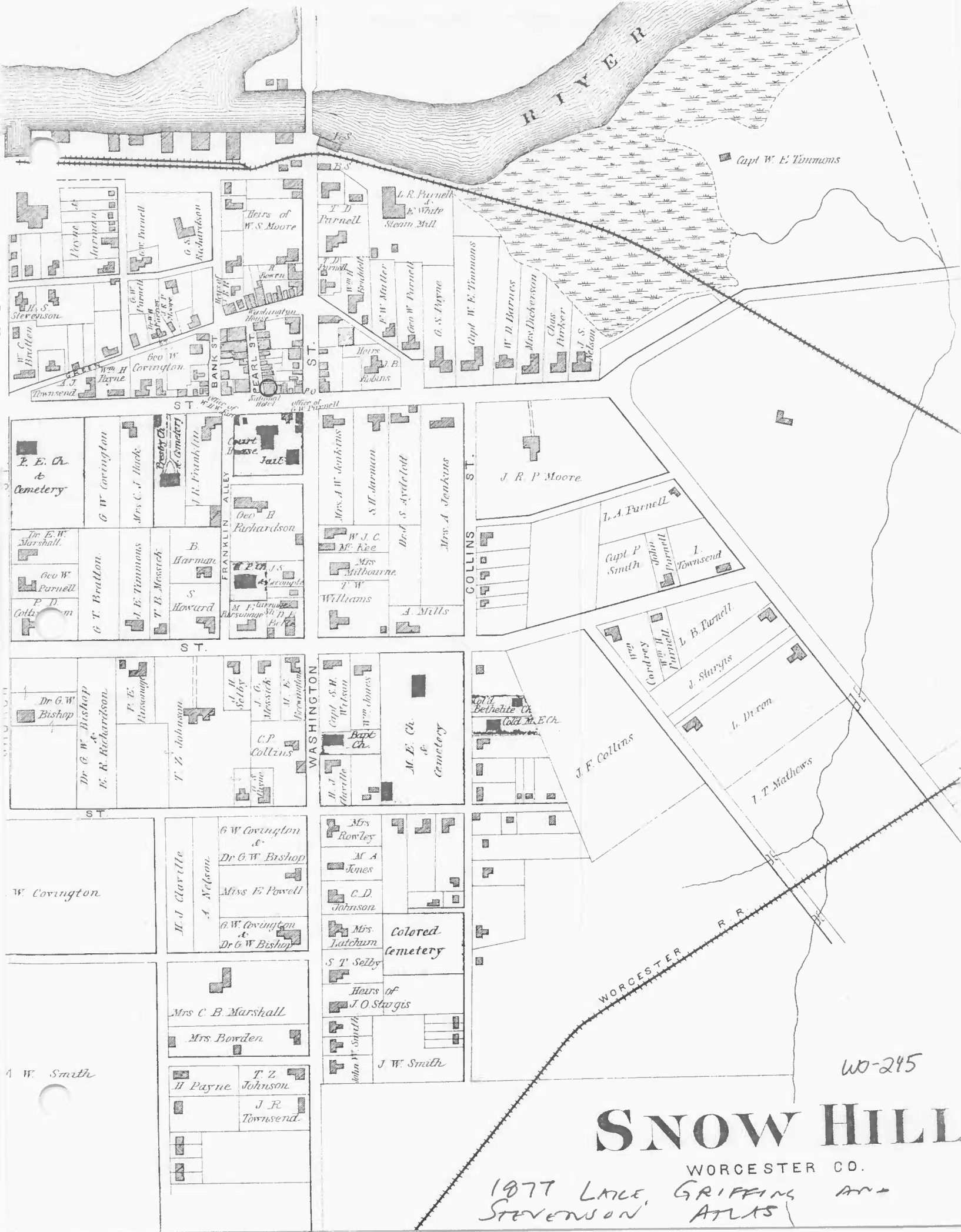
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone	301-632-1194
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city or town	Snow Hill	state	Maryland 21863
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



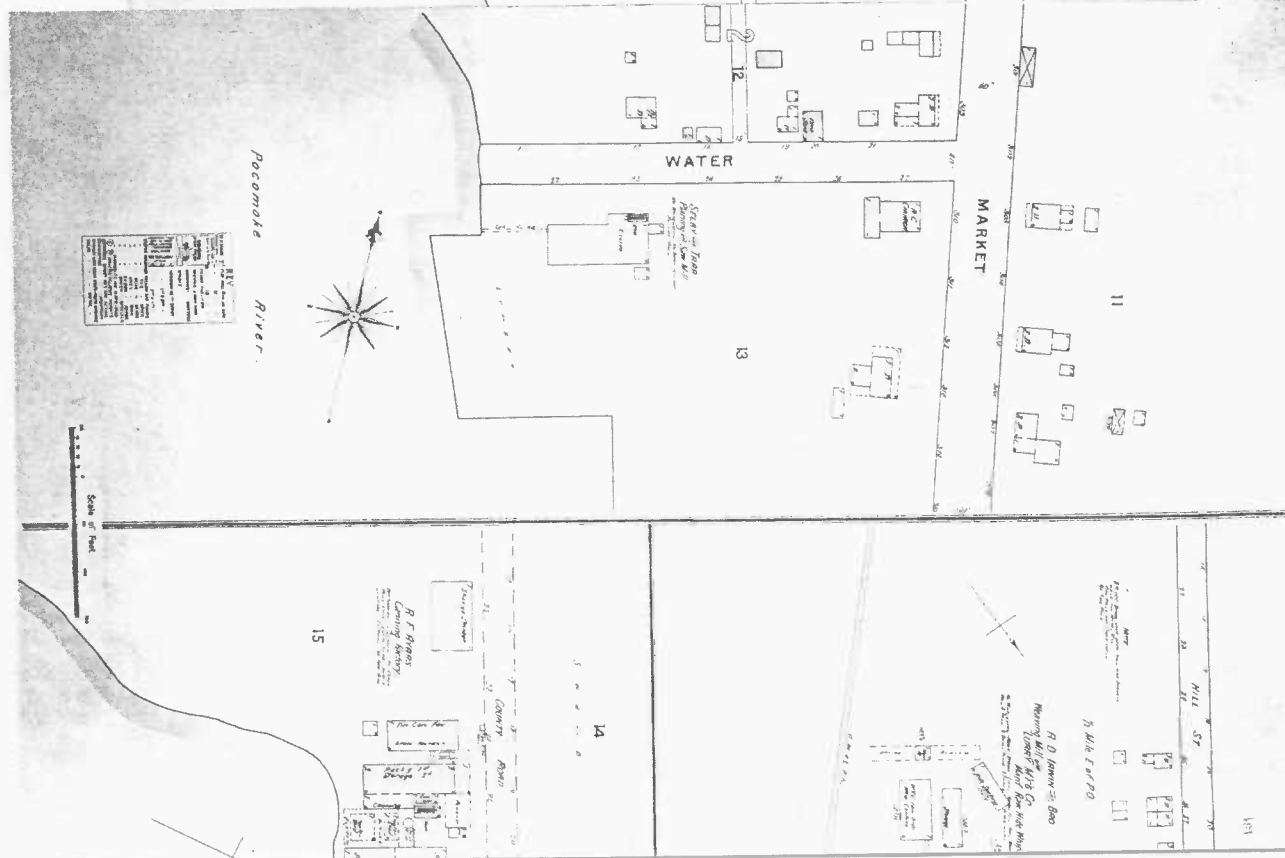
W0-245

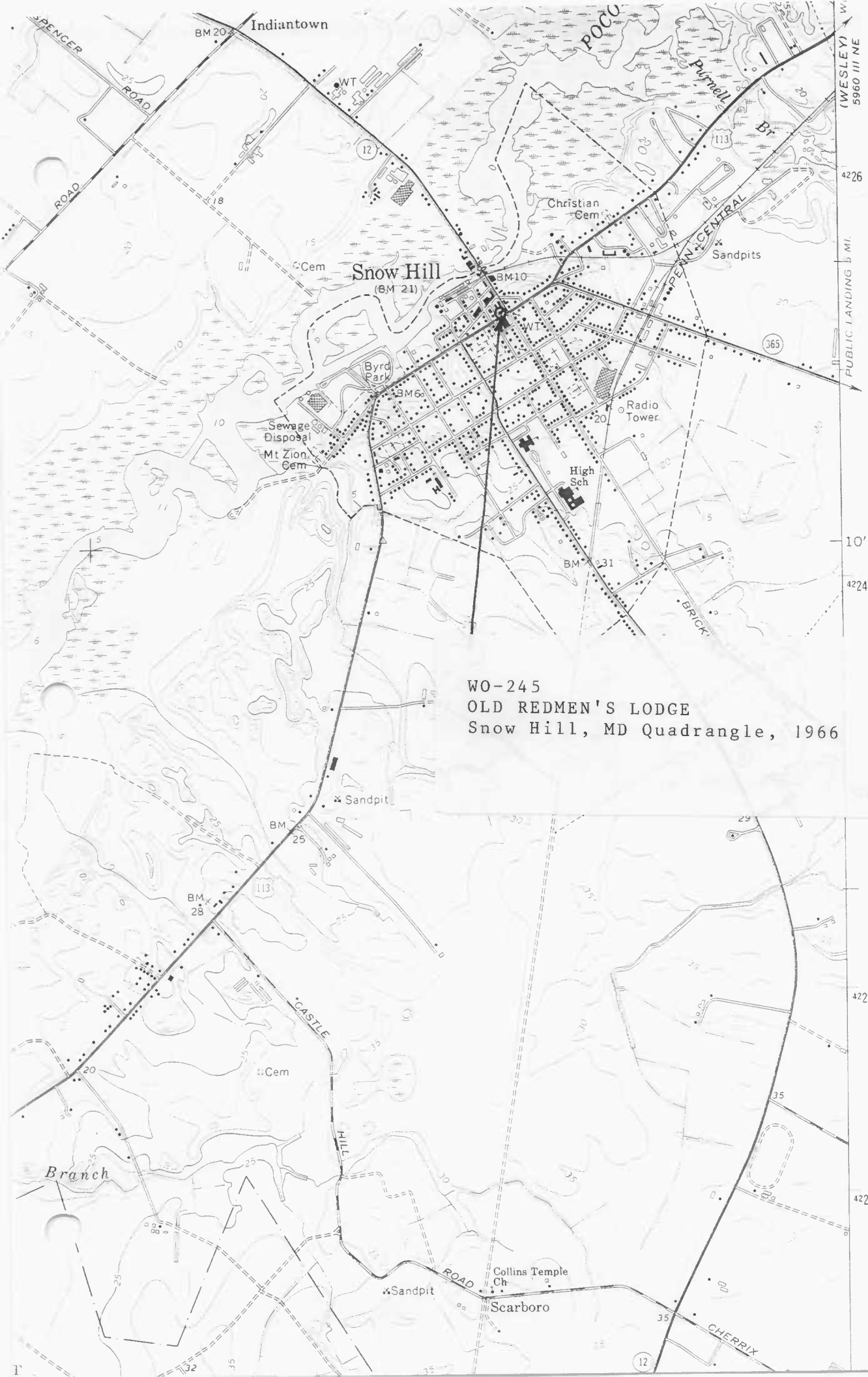
SNOW HILL

WORCESTER CO.

1877 LITCHFIELD, GRIFFING AND STEVENSON'S ATLAS

This is a detailed historical map of the Pearl River area, dated January 1893. The map shows a grid of streets including Washington, Green, Pearl, Bank, and Market. A compass rose is located in the upper left corner, and a scale of feet is provided at the bottom. A red circle highlights a specific building on Pearl Street, near the intersection with Bank Street. The map also shows the RIVER, SNOW HILL, and various churches and mills. The map is labeled with street names: WASHINGTON, GREEN, PEARL, BANK, and MARKET. It also shows the RIVER, SNOW HILL, and various churches and mills. The map is labeled with street names: WASHINGTON, GREEN, PEARL, BANK, and MARKET. It also shows the RIVER, SNOW HILL, and various churches and mills.





WO-245
OLD REDMEN'S LODGE
Snow Hill, MD Quadrangle, 1966

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